

I. ELECTION/ELECTED CLAIM IDENTIFICATION

Claims 1 – 83 are currently pending in above-identified patent application. Page 3 of the Restriction Requirement states that Applicants are required to elect one group of claims from the XIX groups listed at pages 2 and 3 of the Restriction Requirement.

In response to this Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect Group XIX, claims 78-83 directed to nucleic acid compositions. Applicants reserve the right to present any and all non-elected claims in a duly filed divisional application.

Applicants further note that the elected claims 78-83 are directed to a composition and therefore, if these claims become allowable, then other non-elected method claims in which the allowable compositions are used may be properly rejoined and may also become allowable. *See* MPEP §821.04.

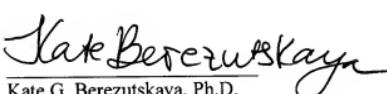
II. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in good and proper order for examination on the merits and early notification to this effect is respectfully solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (312) 846-5622.

Respectfully submitted,
HOWREY LLP

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By:



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